

United States District Court
District of Vermont



Evidence Presentation
System

The evidence presentation system was designed to promote and enhance the presentation and dissemination of exhibits and evidence in the courtroom.

This system allows for the use of many forms of media as input and displays this media throughout the courtroom on flat panel LCD monitors. Also, large screen monitors can be set up to provide for increased “viewability” to the gallery.

Examples of media input would be: *documents, video tape, photographs, video conferencing, X-rays, Computer based presentation software, Transparent or translucent media and 3-D Objects.*



The focal point of the evidence presentation system is the **podium**. The podium contains a recessed monitor for viewing the source media as well as the Elmo document camera and light pen.

The **Elmo** document camera is capable of displaying documents, X-rays, 3-D objects, photographs, slides and overhead transparencies. By simply placing a document or object on the Elmo platform, the image is displayed throughout the courtroom.



The podium based **light pen** allows for “mark-up” augmentation to the media being presented. By applying the pen to the monitor surface, the user is capable of drawing freeform lines or applying an assortment of arrows or crosshairs that are super imposed on the display.

There is also a **light pen tablet** at the witness stand. This pen operates in much the same way as the pen on the podium. However, there are a few distinctions. Instead of pressing the pen on the monitor, the user uses the tablet as a drawing surface. Also, the user configuration options are permanently displayed on the upper portion of the tablet. Both pens can be utilized to markup the same image; however, the pens should not be used simultaneously.





The podium contains a user operated **video source selector**. This allows the user to switch between several system inputs such as the document camera, VCR, laptop computer (at the podium) and auxiliary (for additional electronic inputs that may be used in the future).

The podium also contains a **VCR**. This is a professional grade VCR that operates in normal fashion. It differs from standard VCRs in that it provides a much cleaner picture when in “freeze” mode. There is a remote for the VCR that can be operated from either counsel table. The podium also houses the **electronic components** that gather and disseminate the media throughout the courtroom.



Images are displayed throughout the courtroom via **15" flat panel LCD monitors**. There are a total of 12 LCD monitors: 1 each for the judge, court reporter, courtroom deputy, law clerk / probation officer, plaintiff counsel and witness; 2 monitors for the defense counsel and 4 monitors for the jury.

The judge and/or courtroom deputy control who may view the media via **desktop control units**. These control units allow for the specific control of both input and output to the system. For example, the judge may only allow the podium and counsel to view an image until admitted. Once admitted, the witness and jury would then be allowed to view the image.



Also, the system allows for input from each counsel table. This enables counsel to use a laptop computer as an input into the system. With this option, counsel would be able to use their own application software to present information in the courtroom.

Evidence Presentation System

Operating Instructions

STEP 1: Utilizing the video source selector on the Podium, select the system input by pressing the corresponding button. The selected button will be illuminated.



Options:

- Document Camera (Elmo)
- VHS - DVD
- PC
- Aux. (Future expansion)

STEP 2:

Elmo Document Camera Operation



Select Document Camera on Video Source Selector

The Elmo document camera will display any media placed on the display surface. Simply place the document, X-ray or 3D object directly on the display surface. You will then see the object displayed on the podium monitor. The document camera contains two light sources, but neither are required to view objects.

<u>Controls</u>	<u>Selections</u>	<u>Results</u>
LAMP	Upper	Toggles on/off the swing out lighting
	Lower	Toggles on/off the base lighting (for X-rays, etc...)
INPUT	Internal	Default - should remain selected
	AV1	Used for supplemental input to document camera
	AV2	Used for supplemental input to document camera
POSI/NEGA	P (positive)	Default - normal view
	N (negative)	Toggles view to negative format (for X-rays)
COLOR/B&W	C	Default - color view
	B&W	Black and white view
ZOOM	Tele	Zoom in
	Wide	Zoom out
Focus	Manu N or F	“N” for near, “F” for far
	Auto	Press button once for auto focus

NOTE: The Elmo document camera was not designed to display an entire 8 ½ X 11 document in readable form. If the purpose is to read text from a document, a paragraph view is recommended.

Neither lighting source is required to view most documents and objects.

VHS/DVD Operation



Select "VHS - DVD" on Video Source Selector on podium
Press power button on front of VCR/DVD Player (or on remote)
Select which source you want to use on the front of the player (DVD or Video)
Insert VHS tape or DVD
Press play on VCR/DVD player (or on remote)

This VCR/DVD player is designed to provide a clear still frame view. This allows the user to “freeze” the picture on one frame. This is accomplished by pressing the pause/still button on either the VCR or on the remote.

NOTE: The light pens can be used to super-impose mark-ups on a still frame view.

The VCR/DVD player can remain running while the Video Source Selector is used to select an alternate video source. This may be useful in toggling between a VCR still frame shot and the Elmo document camera.

The volume for the VCR/DVD player is controlled by the courtroom deputy.

PC Operation



The podium PC operation is designed for those users who wish to operate their PC/notebook computer from the podium. If operated from the counsel table, the courtroom deputy will select the correct input via the control unit.

Select PC from the Video Source Selector

Connect one end of a VGA cable to the external VGA port on the computer and the other end to the VGA port on the side of the Video Source Selector

Boot the computer

NOTE: We highly recommend using 1024 x 768 screen resolution on the computer. Consult your operating system manual for instructions on how to verify/select this setting.

The light pens can be used to super-impose mark-ups on a PC view.

STEP 3:

Light Pen Operation

Once the light pen is positioned a few inches above the monitor surface, the selected pointer will appear. This pointer style, color, line width and brightness may be changed. See below.



To freehand draw: Press the tip of the light pen on the monitor screen and draw it across the image until the drawing line or line segment is complete. Lift the light pen off of the monitor to end drawing. This step may be repeated multiple times.

To overlay a pointer: Briefly tap the tip of the light pen on the monitor screen at the point where you would like a copy of the pointer to be placed. This step may be repeated multiple times.

To erase: With the light pen off of the monitor surface, press the barrel button to erase the last mark made. Repeat this step to continue erasing previous marks sequentially. Press and hold the barrel button for 3 seconds to clear the entire screen.

To change the pointer color (shortcut): With the barrel button depressed, quickly tap the light pen on the monitor.

To change the pointer style, color, line width and/or brightness: First press the barrel button on the light pen then press the tip on the monitor so that both buttons are simultaneously pressed for about 5 seconds. The Setup Menu will appear on the screen. NOTE: The tip button must be pressed soon after the barrel button (approx. 1 second), or the light pen may interpret the barrel button press as a clear command.

Digitizing Tablet Operation:

To freehand draw: Position the active pointer anywhere on the video image where the drawing is to begin. Press the tip of the pen onto the tracking area of the tablet and draw it across until the drawing line or line segment is complete.



To overlay a pointer: Position the active pointer anywhere on the video image. Press the barrel button.

To erase: Press the tip of the pointer into the “Undo” area on the digitizing tablet. This will erase the last mark made. Repeat this step to erase subsequent marks. To clear all marks at once, press the tip of the pointer into the “Clear” area on the digitizing tablet.

To change the pointer style, color and/or line style: Press the tip of the pen onto the corresponding pointer/color/line style area on the digitizing tablet.